

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09707 061742Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9707

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV UR US
SUBJECT: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO ON CURRENT
US-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF REMARKS MADE BY
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO DURING HIS 90 MINUTE
CONVERSATION WITH MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE PRESIDENT OLIN
ROBISON JULY 5 AT USA/CANADA INSTITUTE. INSTITUTE
DIRECTOR ARBATOV WAS PRESENT FOR FIRST 15 MINUTES.
INSTITUTE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY F.A. IVANYAN TOOK NOTES
THROUGHOUT.

2. KORNIYENKO REPEATEDLY CLAIMED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER
IS NOT PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS AS EQUALS.
HE ASSERTED THAT NIXON UNDERSTOOD THE PROGRESS COULD
ONLY BE ACHIEVED ON THIS BASIS: "OUR RECENT PROGRESS
IN RELATIONS WAS BECAUSE BOTH SIDES CHOSE TO DEAL
WITH EACH OTHER AS EQUALS... ON THAT BASIS MANY
THINGS GET DONE." KORNIYENKO SAID HE DID NOT SEE
THAT READINESS NOW ON PART OF PRESIDENT AND THE
US SIDE DID NOT APPROACH SALT AND OTHER NEGOTIATIONS
"ON EQUAL TERMS, EQUAL FOOTING."

2. ROBISON OBSERVED THAT SOVIETS SEEM SO SENSITIVE
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OVER PRESENT CARTER'S STYLE THAT THEIR PERSPECTIVE
OF WHAT HE SAYS HAS BECOME OBSCURED AND SAID THERE
WAS A GRWOING CONSENSUS IN WASHINGTON THAT MOSCOW
HAD TO BE DEALT WITH STEP BY STEP. ARGUING THAT
PRESIDNE CARTER WAS GENUINELY SEEKING TO EVINCE
HIS GOOD FAITH TO THE SOVIET RE ARMS CONTROL BUT
AT THE SAME TIME TO DEMONSTRATE THE ADMINISTRATION'S

GENUINE COMMITMENT TO ARMS CONTROL BY ACCELERATING THE PROCESS, ROBISON SAID THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM IN WASHINGTON WAS THAT THE SOVIET COULD NOT ACCEPT THE COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE BECAUSE IT WAS RADICAL. BECOMING DEFENSIVE, KORNIYENKO INSISTED THAT THIS WAS NOT TRUE. MOSCOW REJECTED THE MARCH PROPOSALS BECAUSE THEY WERE ONE SIDED, RADICAL ONLY IN RESPECT TO LIMITING THE SOVIETS, AND THEREBY DESTABILIZING: "I WOULD FIND IT MORE UNDERSTANDABLE, ALTHOUGH I WOULD NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPT IT AS EVIDENCE OF AMERICAN GOOD FAITH, IF THE PROPOSAL WERE EQUALLY RADICAL FOR BOTH SIDES AND IF WE WERE FIRST TO COMPLETE THAT WHICH WAS ALREADY IN ADVANCED PREPARATION."

3. ON HUMAN RIGHTS KORNIYENKO DWELT AT LENGTH ON PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO SAKHAROV THEN MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF EMPHASIZING THE COMMITMENT GIVEN BY FDR TO LITVINO IN HIS LETTER OF NOVEMBER 16, 1933 TO REFRAIN ON RECIPROCAL BASIS FROM INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. (IVANYAN WHO "JUST HAPPENED" TO HAVE COPY AVAILABLE PASSED TO ROBISON AT KORNIYENKO'S REQUEST.). KORNIYENKO SAID "WE VIEW PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS A WELL THOUGHT OUT, WELL PLANNED CAMPAIGN OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE; IT IS A SPECIAL INSTRUMENT TO BE EMPLOYED IN STRUGGLE AGAINST

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SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

4. QUERIED RE A POSSIBLE CARTER-BREZHNEV MEETING KORNIYENKO SAID "PERSONAL MEETINGS ARE IMPORTANT. HOWEVER, THEY SHOULD ALWAYS BE ABOUT SOMETHING SUBSTANTIAL. THERE SHOULD BE POSITIVE RESULTS ON SALT ON OTHER ISSUES. OTHERWISE, SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE A FAILURE." HE EMPHASIZED HOWEVER THAT HE DID NOT MEAN THAT A DOCUMENT NECESSARILY HAD TO BE SIGNED AT SUCH A MEETING. (NOTE: IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION IZVESITA CORRESPONDENT BOVIN GAVE ROBISON ALMOST IDENTICAL FORMULA AND ARBATOV, THOUGH MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED, GAVE ONE WHICH DIFFERED ONLY SLIGHTLY.)

5. ROBISON SAID THERE WAS SOME CONCERN IN WASHINGTON THAT SHOULD SHCHARANSKIY BE TRIED FOR TREASON BEFORE END OF BELGRADE II THIS COULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPINGE ON POLITICAL CLIMATE IN WHICH THOSE US OFFICIALS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN BELGRADE OPERATE. KORNIYENKO BRISTLED AND IN A DELIBERATE MANNER, REFERRED TO "CRIMINAL ACTION" WITH "PROOFS IN HAND OF CONNECTIONS

WITH AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES." (NOTE: IN
CONVERSATION LAST WEEK ARBATOV USED MORE CAREFUL
FORMULA "CONNECTIONS WITH SOME AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS.")

6. ROBISON HAS CLEARED THIS MESSAGE IN DRAFT.
TOON

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